

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/046,477	KO, SHENLI
	Examiner Benjamin H. Layno	Art Unit 3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- This communication is responsive to _____.
- The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
- The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
- Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - All
 - Some*
 - None
 of the:
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
- CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
- Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other "93. Up" reference.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. The patents to Shen et al., Ko 472', Ko 876', So et al., Ung, Lo, Hedman, Srichayaporn and the game "9's Up" all disclose Pai Gow games wherein each player receives four cards or tiles, and arranges the cards or tiles into a two-card high hand and a two-card low hand. In these games, the dealer also receives four cards or tiles, arranges the cards or tiles into a two-card high hand and a two-card low hand. The player's high and low hands are compared to the dealer's high and low hands, respectively.
3. None of the cited references alone or in combination teach the claimed step of "defining a first subset of banker high and low hands; and.....the banker high and low hands are within the first subset of banker hands, the player being rewarded at a modified rate greater than or equal to zero and less than even money; if the banker high and low hands are not within the first subset of banker hands, rewarding player winning outcomes at even money with no commission retained" as recited in claim 1. None of the cited references alone or in combination teach the claimed steps of "defining a first subset of banker hands; if upon comparison.....a player winning outcome is obtained and the banker high and low hands are within the first subset of banker hands, the player being rewarded at a modified rate greater than or equal to zero and less than even money; defining a second subset of player hands that automatically results in a banker winning outcome; collecting the player's wager if the player's high and low hands are within the second subset without regard to the result of comparison to the

banker high and low hands; defining a third subset of player hands that automatically results in a player winning outcome" as recited in claim 11. None of the cited references alone or in combination teach the steps of "defining a first subset of at least one banker low hand; if upon comparision.....and the banker low hand is within the first subset, the player being rewarded at a modified rate greater than or equal to zero and less than even money; if the banker low hand is not within the first subset, rewarding player winning outcomes at even money with no commission retained" as recited in claim 18. Furthermore, none of the cited references alone or in combination teach the claimed steps of "defining a second subset of player hands that automatically results in a banker winning outcome; collecting the player's wager if the player's high and low hands are within the second subset without regard to the result of the comparison to the banker high and low hands; rewarding player winning outcomes at even money with no commission retained" as recited in claim 22.

Drawings

4. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the application has been allowed. The drawings are objected to because the hand written text in Figures 3 and 4 are too small and illegible. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an

amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency.

Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

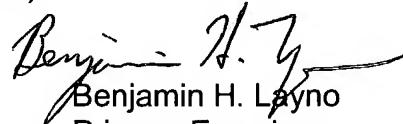
5. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsperson outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin H. Layno whose telephone number is (571) 272-4424. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 1st Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Vidovich can be reached on (571) 272-4415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Benjamin H. Layno
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3711

bhl